

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

BRADLEY K. FAY,)
vs.)
Plaintiff,)
vs.) Case No. 21-cv-524-SMY
KILOLO KIJAKAZI, ACTING)
COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL)
SECURITY,)
Defendant.)

MEMORANDUM AND ORDER

YANDLE, District Judge:

Pending before the Court is the parties' Joint Motion to Award Attorney Fees and Expenses filed pursuant to the Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA), 28 U.S.C. § 2412 (Doc. 21). Plaintiff seeks attorney fees in the amount of \$5,501.68. Defendant has no objection.

Plaintiff is the prevailing party and is entitled to an award of attorney fees pursuant to the EAJA. The Court finds that the agreed upon amount is reasonable and appropriate. Therefore, the Motion for Attorney Fees (Doc. 21) is **GRANTED**; Plaintiff is awarded **\$5,501.68**.

This award for attorney fees and expenses is in full satisfaction of all claims for attorney fees and expenses that may be payable to Plaintiff in this matter under the EAJA. Any fees paid belong to Plaintiff, not Plaintiff's attorney, and can be offset to satisfy any pre-existing debt that the litigant owes the United States. *Astrue v. Ratliff*, 560 U.S. 586 (2010). If Defendant can verify that Plaintiff does not owe a pre-existing debt to the government subject

to the offset, Defendant will direct that the award be made payable to Plaintiff's attorney pursuant to the EAJA assignment duly signed by Plaintiff.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: January 3, 2023

A handwritten signature of "Staci M. Yandle" in black ink. The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Staci" and "M." being more stylized and "Yandle" being more like a standard name.

STACI M. YANDLE
United States District Judge